

NORTH BEND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

March 4, 2014

Senior Center, 411 Main Ave. S., North Bend, Washington

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:

Mayor Hearing called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Cook, Kolodejchuk, Loudenback, Pettersen, Rosen and Williamson. Councilmember Gothelf was excused.

Councilmember Kolodejchuk **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Williamson to pull AB14-017 – Resolution Accepting King County Watershed Grant and AB14-018 – Resolution Authorizing MTSG Agreement RE Tollgate Weed Project and send back to staff for further review prior to reconsideration at the March 18, 2014 Council meeting. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes – Council Meeting of February 4, 2014, Council Workstudy of January 28, 2014

Payroll – February 5, 2014 – 27033 through 27039, in the amount of \$129,099.21

February 20, 2014 – 27040 through 27046, in the amount of \$110,958.65

Checks – February 18, 2014 – 59309 through 59373, in the amount of \$221,384.16

March 4, 2014 – 59374 through 59419, in the amount of \$169,688.99

AB14-013 – Resolution 1641 Authorizing Segregation of ULID 6 Assessments

AB14-014 – Motion Authorizing Contract with Evergreen Sanitation

AB14-015 – Motion Authorizing Contract with Public Works Rep

AB14-016 – Motion Authorizing G&O Contract Amendment RE 415th Waterline Project

Councilmember Rosen **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Kolodejchuk to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Celia McNay, 13121 455th Place SE, commented on proposed developments in the eastern portion of the City. She requested the City mitigate potential damages to Tanner Road and surrounding natural resources by requiring the developers to design their plats with traffic entering and exiting onto SE 140th Street and Middle Fork Road.

Scott Heller, 45126 SE Tanner Rd, commented on proposed developments near Tanner Road. He mentioned he liked the City's mission statement regarding maintaining a rural character and noted that the proposed developments were contradictory to that

statement because they were more suburban in nature. He also expressed his preference for a reduction in the number of homes in the developments and that traffic exit onto SE 140th Street.

David Clemens, 13120 455th Place SE, resident of River Glen Estates, expressed concern about extra traffic on Tanner Road and its inability to handle excess volume without improvements.

Paul Riehle, 13313 432nd Ave. SE, spoke about the proposed Stilson Utility Local Improvement District and noted that after two and a half years it had not received an adequate number of petitions to move forward.

Travis Bridgman, 713 Ogle Ave NE, noted it would be nice for the community to have safe parks and trails that are interconnected in which to take their children and pets.

Emily Adamson, 45326 SE Tanner Road, expressed concern about the future safety of citizens and wildlife on Tanner Road as a result of increased traffic from the proposed developments.

Paul Fuller, 13110 454th Place SE, requested that Council consider all comments made by citizens concerned about the subdivisions proposed near Tanner Road and expressed his desire for the area to maintain its rural character.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS:

State of the City Address – Mayor Hearing

Mayor Hearing delivered the following State of the City of North Bend 2014 address:

“Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council, Citizens, Property Owners, Staff and Friends; it is my great honor to present to you the North Bend 2014 State of the City Address.

Last year I reported we were seeing modest recovery and in the last year we have experienced additional new growth which indicates that we may be seeing sustained recovery in the local economy. This year we are again presented with opportunities as well as challenges, but I am very happy to say we continue to move in a positive direction, building upon the momentum established during my first two terms in office.

The City’s accomplishments in the next year will be built upon the successes of our past. The acquisition of water rights has led to an impressive amount of new development in our city. We issued 123 building permits for new homes during 2013, and are expecting similar activity in 2014. The City has 8 pending plat applications for a potential total of 431 new building lots and new homes so you can see that staff is extremely busy processing development activity. We appreciate that Council authorized

hiring two new employees due to this increase in development, and whose tenure will be reviewed bi-annually to insure that development revenues continue to pay for these positions. Council has also indicated an interest in focusing on code amendments in the coming year to insure that our neighborhoods remain “highly livable” and development is consistent with our mission of “preserving the rural character of our community”.

The citizens’ approval of the Transportation Benefit District has provided us with an ongoing revenue stream for transportation projects for the next ten years. This new source of revenue, combined with other City funds, will provide capital project funding to improve our roads and sidewalks. In addition, the Council adopted a new Transportation Impact Fee which more closely reflects the real transportation cost associated with new home construction to achieve our goal that “growth pays for growth”. Council is considering expanding exemptions to the Transportation Impact Fee for some commercial uses in order to stimulate economic redevelopment to certain parts of the City.

After many years of deferred maintenance as a result of shrinking revenues, the City has made the maintenance of our streets a real priority. In past years Council set aside \$100,000 or more for pavement overlays and for 2014 they budgeted nearly \$200,000 showing their commitment to maintaining streets infrastructure.

In 2014, we will replace the 415th SE water line that has been nearing its life expectancy for several years. This project will be a \$1.3 million dollar investment from your water utility and the state Public Works Trust Fund to solve a problem that is a significant source of water loss from the City’s distribution system, and will insure reliable water service to our residents and avoid water line breaks in this area in future years.

Additionally, Council will be working on evaluating our wastewater treatment plant in 2014. Our plant has a number of deferred maintenance capital needs and we will be considering a wide range of alternatives in delivering sewer services to citizens, seeking the most reliable and cost effective option available.

Voter approved bonds led to the construction of our new Fire Station and it was completed in 2013 on time and within budget. This allowed the City to consider the use of the old fire station to meet Council’s goal of revitalizing our historic downtown. The City has recently entered into a lease agreement with a winery to operate a tasting room in this location. We have also received a building permit application to remodel the old Sunset Garage for a new business, a structure which has been vacant for over 40 years. We hope citizens will enjoy these new businesses that will add to the vibrancy of our downtown.

Bartell Drugs opened its doors in November and had the largest opening day of any Bartell store in the chain. This store provides the convenience of a local drug store to our citizens, and will provide additional sales tax revenue to invest back into the community. We anticipate completion of the new Visitor Information Center near

Bartell's this summer in its new and highly visible location. Council has approved funding to assist the Downtown Association with staffing the VIC, which will have an outdoor display and sales area to draw visitors, creating a vital street corner at the entrance to our historic downtown.

We are also excited for a new hotel planned to locate on the corner of Bendigo Blvd and South Fork Avenue. The hotel completed its environmental review in 2013, will commence construction in 2014, with a goal to open by mid-2015. I see this project as pivotal in drawing visitors to our downtown core and fulfilling the vision of our branding and marketing efforts to make North Bend a recreational destination.

On the services side, the City Council elected to make a change in the delivery of our police services. We want to acknowledge and thank the King County Sheriff's office for being an outstanding partner for over 30 years. The decision was difficult but we believe we can expand our services at a lower and more dependable cost by contracting with Snoqualmie for police services. Both departments are working effectively with the administration to insure a smooth transition. We will host a "meet and greet" open house very soon, for citizens to meet their new police officers.

Council also decided to add a seventh (7th) police officer under the Snoqualmie police contract which will result in increased law enforcement in 2014. I appreciate Council's support to add such needed police presence. We are still struggling to meet the challenges associated with increased drug activity in our community and are committed to making this a top priority. It is likely we will recommend Council consider a public safety 1/10th of 1 percent sales tax increase in 2014 to allow the City to hire an 8th police officer. We look forward to expanding our existing partnership with our neighbor the City of Snoqualmie and increasing police presence in North Bend. The new police services contract will become effective March 8th.

City staff is constantly looking for ways to increase efficiencies and cost effectiveness. Staff will ask Council to adopt a resolution this year to proceed with a biennial budget to reduce budgeting redundancies, and provide for biennial audits as allowed by state law.

We are pleased that on-line utility bill pay is now available to citizens, and plans will soon be implemented for the State of Washington to assume a portion of the City's business licensing. Both of these will have a positive impact on staff resources and provide increased business license and business and occupation tax revenue.

The City continues to expand communications with the community. In 2013 a new website was launched with a host of offerings including video access to Council meetings and an increased social media presence. Our goal is to be a transparent government; we want to be successful in communicating with our citizens. Recently, the Economic Development Commission collaborated with staff to launch the North Bend Webcam which is a favorite link accessed from the City's website. This Webcam displays a

live view of the City, laid out on the valley floor with Mount Si and the Cascades as a backdrop as viewed from Rattlesnake Ridge, be sure to check it out!

On the tourism and economic development front, City Staff has coordinated an amazing array of events over the past several years and 2014 will not be disappointing. Upcoming events include the North Bend Blues Walk on April 26th, the North Bend Farmers Market and Summer Concert Series beginning in June, the 5th annual Downtown Block Party on July 19th, the Festival at Mt Si held the second weekend of August, the North Bend Jazz Walk on Sept 13th, and the North Bend Mountain Film Festival which runs October through December, culminating with the Holiday Tree Lighting Festival. Go to the City's website under News and Highlights and check out the Highlighted Events for the full 2014 Schedule of Events.

The City in partnership with Si View Metropolitan Park District will be opening a new park at Tollgate Farm during the coming year which will include a children's play area, trails, restrooms and parking. This will provide an opportunity to enjoy the pristine beauty of Tollgate with its spectacular views of Mt Si. In addition, the City in partnership with the Snoqualmie Valley Little League will finalize design of improvements at Torguson Park to include new restrooms, concession stand and reconstruction of 4 ballfields.

At our recent City Council Retreat, we continued discussions about the benefits of downtown redevelopment and moving City Hall to North Bend Way. Council will be refining its vision in 2014 discussions with the community on funding alternatives. I believe that, with the help of the citizens, a major facelift and economic boost is possible. We believe encouraging new business like the new winery with tasting room, and the new business planned for the Sunset garage in downtown are compatible with Council's vision of promoting tourism to the North Bend area.

As you can see, the staff is hard at work and the city is growing. We had a good 2013 and I look forward to continued positive growth in 2014. Thank you, Citizens, once again, for trusting us to be good stewards of your money. This will be a time when our challenges should bring out the best in all of us and prove even more that North Bend is a City "Easy to reach, and Hard to Leave".

INTRODUCTIONS:

AB14-019 – Public Hearing Only, Ordinance Amending NBMC 17.38
Regarding Transportation Impact Fees Exemption of Use

Audio: 29:58

Mayor Hearing opened the Public Hearing on an Ordinance Amending NBMC 17.38 Regarding Transportation Impact Fees Exemption of Use at 7:31 p.m. There was no public comment.

Mayor Hearing announced the Public Hearing would be continued until further notice.

AB14-020 – Public Hearing, Ordinance 1517 Amending NBMC Regarding Cottage Residential Zoning Audio: 31:05

Community & Economic Development Director Estep provided the staff report.

Mayor Hearing opened the Public Hearing on an Ordinance Amending NBMC Regarding Cottage Residential Zoning at 7:39 p.m.

Travis Bridgman, 713 Ogle Ave NE, stated that citizens were given many opportunities at past public meetings to express their opinions on the cottage housing issue.

Mayor Hearing closed the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Councilmember Cook **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Rosen to approve AB14-020, an ordinance adopting multiple amendments to the North Bend Municipal Code related to Cottage Residential Zoning, as a first and final reading. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

AB14-021 – Ordinance 1518 Amending NBMC 19.05 RE Street Standards Audio: 44:24

Community & Economic Development Director Estep provided the staff report.

Councilmember Rosen **MOVED**, seconded by Councilmember Loudenback, to approve AB14-021, an ordinance amending NBMC 19.05 Design and Construction Standards for Streets to specify NBMC 19.20.020(I) contain two 7.5 foot parking lanes and two nine foot travel lanes, as a first and final reading. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND ADMINISTRATOR CONCERNS AND INITIATIVES:

Councilmember Pettersen thanked Planning Commission Chair Rob McFarland for all of his hard work and his contributions at multiple Community & Economic Development Committee meetings this past year.

Councilmember Rosen echoed Councilmember Pettersen's comments regarding the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Kolodejchuk mentioned the upcoming walk through of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and encouraged other Councilmembers to attend the event. He thanked the King County Sheriff's Office for their forty years of service to the citizens of North Bend. He also requested updates on the City's Sydney Lot Request for Proposals (RFP) and development in the Truck Town area.

Ms. Lindell responded to the question on the RFP by noting that both respondents were asked to provide additional information and neither respondent was able to comply at this point in time. Ms. Estep added that she expected additional information from one of the respondents in approximately a month and a half.

Ms. Estep addressed the question regarding Truck Town by noting that there would be opportunities for the public to comment on proposed developments, particularly when a proposed development was being heard by the Hearing Examiner. Public Works Director Page spoke briefly about a future comprehensive traffic analysis of the area.

City Administrator Lindell mentioned the 2014 Council Work Plan would be discussed at the March 25th Council Workstudy. Additionally, she thanked outgoing Chief of Police Services Toner for his years of service to the City.

Chief of Police Services, Mark Toner thanked the citizens of the North Bend for the opportunity to serve them.

Mayor Hearing spoke regarding the following items:

- Yard Waste Recycling Program beginning April 5th at Public Works
- March 8th start of Police Services provided by Snoqualmie Police Department
- King County Sheriff's Office Service to North Bend

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Rosen **MOVED** to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Loudenback. The motion **PASSED** 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kenneth G. Hearing, Mayor

Susie Oppedal, City Clerk